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Royal Geographical Society.

1853.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL,

READ AT THE ANNIVERSARY MEETING, 23RD MAY.

THE Council have the pleasure to submit their customary Report, and to invite attention to the evidence afforded by it of increased public interest in the objects for which the Society was instituted, namely, the promotion and diffusion of Geographical knowledge.

Members,—Ordinary, Honorary, and Corresponding.—Since the last anniversary meeting 105 ordinary members have been added to the lists of the Society, a number greatly in excess of any previous year. One *Honorary* and one *Corresponding* member have also, upon the recommendation of the Council, been duly elected, viz. :—M. Pierre de Tchihatchef, author of important works on the Altai Mountains and Asia Minor, and Sig. Cristoforo Negri, Chief of the Consular department of Sardinia, and author of the work entitled “*Del vario grado d’importanza degli stati Odierni.*” During this period 16 vacancies have occurred among the ordinary members, of which 12 from death, and 4 by resignation. Of honorary and corresponding members the Council have also to notice with regret the decease of the illustrious geologist and geographer, Leopold von Buch; the distinguished Danish

hydrographer, Admiral Zahrtmann, of Copenhagen ; and General Joaquin Acosta of Bogotâ.

The Society now consists of 701 ordinary, and 62 honorary and corresponding members.

Finances.—The funded capital of the Society, consisting of 2000*l.* 3½ per cent. Government Stock, continues intact.

The receipts of the past year, which were estimated at 1342*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*, amounted, as is shown in the accompanying Balance Sheet, to 1540*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* ; from which amount must however be deducted 38*l.* 5*s.* received in aid of the recent Arctic Expedition, and since paid over to Lady Franklin.

The progressive increase of the Society's income has enabled the Council to make good some Library deficiencies, and to improve many details of scientific arrangement. Last year a Catalogue, prepared with much ability and care by our excellent Assistant Secretary, Dr. Shaw, was printed, and the Society's valuable collections of Books, Maps, and Charts are now available, as far as our limited space admits, to its members. This year the same zealous officer is revising for publication a general Index to the Journals, vols. 10 to 20 inclusive, compiled and presented to the Society by Mr. George Brent, which will also be issued to the Fellows *free of charge*.

Arrears.—At the last anniversary it was decided to strike off from the lists of the Society the names of all members in arrear of subscriptions for periods exceeding three years ; this has accordingly been done, and 37 defaulters, representing an aggregate arrearage of 644*l.*, have, in consequence, ceased to be Fellows of the Society.

In order to meet the requirements of scientific travellers going abroad, or members ordered on foreign service, the Council, after

mature consideration, recommend that, upon due notice to the Secretary *in writing*, the names of all such members be retained upon the lists of the Society during their residence abroad, without requiring payment of the customary subscriptions ; and further, that, upon payment of a reduced annual subscription of 1*l.*, such members shall be entitled to the Journals, or other free publications of the Society, during the periods of their foreign residence, in the same manner as if paying the customary full subscription.

Publications.—The 22nd volume of the Journal has been published since the last anniversary ; and continues to be delivered *free*, on application at the Society's rooms, to all members whose subscriptions are not in arrear. The Council think they may fairly congratulate the Society on the increased attraction of this publication,—the number, variety, and value of the articles, and the illustrations which accompany them. The sales to the public show a corresponding improvement, the bookseller's returns, from 1847 to the year under consideration, ranging from 30*l.* to upwards of 120*l.*

The 23rd volume, which it is confidently hoped will not yield in interest to any preceding number, is now in preparation, and will be published in the course of the present year.

The Libraries of the Geographical Society at New York, the Canadian Parliament at Quebec, and the Armenian Convent, St. Lazare, at Venice, have been added to the list of Institutions to which the Journals of the Society are presented.

Administration.—In order most efficiently to carry out the objects of the Society, the Council is now divided into permanent working Committees under the following heads :—

- 1st. Regulations and Bye-Laws.
- 2nd. Finance and House.
- 3rd. Library, Maps, &c.
- 4th. Publications.
- 5th. Expeditions.

Without entering upon the various subjects referred for investigation during the past year, and reported upon to the Council for final decision, it may be noticed that a valuable paper has been drawn up by the Committee on Expeditions, entitled "Hints for Travellers," which will be published in the next volume, and which will also be printed separately for general distribution.

Library.—Since the last anniversary 156 volumes of Books have been bound, and 436 sheets of Maps and Charts have been mounted. In the same period the accessions to the Library comprise 438 volumes of Books and Pamphlets, 19 Atlases, and 400 Sheets of Maps and Charts, a list of which is laid upon the table, and will be printed in the Journal. Among other important contributions during the past year may specially be noticed the following :—Owen's Report of a Geological Survey of Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota, &c., with accompanying Illustrations, 4to. ; Schoolcraft's History, Condition, and Prospects of the Indian Tribes of the United States, vol. 2, 4to. ; Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge, vols. 3 and 4, Imp. 4to. ; Stansbury's Exploration and Survey of the Great Salt Lake of Utah, 8vo., with accompanying Maps and Illustrations ; Tchihatchef's Asia Minor, &c., with Maps and Engravings ; Ritter's Atlas of Asia, 5 sheets ; Ancient Atlases, Maps, and Charts, presented by the Lords of the Treasury, and others by His Grace the Duke of Manchester ; Transactions of the Imperial Geological Institute of Vienna ; Atlas, containing 36 sheets of the Topographical Surveys of Prussia, from Messrs. Schropp of Berlin ; Map of the

Island of Cuba, by Don Estéban Pichardo; Original Ancient Map of Central America, by Geronimo de Chaves, presented through Dr. Hodgkin by Timothy Bevington, Esq.; Transactions of the Lombardo-Veneto Institute of Milan, and of other Foreign Bodies; Continuation of the Topographical Maps of the Cantons of St. Gall and Appenzell, Geological Map of Switzerland, and A General Atlas of Geography, presented by Mr. J. M. Ziegler, of Wintérthur; and Charts published by the Hydrographic Office of the Admiralty.

Royal Donation.—The Gold Medals, forming the annual donation of Her Most Gracious Majesty, have been awarded as follows:—

The Founder's Medal to Francis Galton, Esq., for having, at his own cost, and in furtherance of the expressed desire of the Society, fitted out an expedition to explore the centre of Southern Africa, and for having so successfully conducted it through the countries of the Namaqua, the Damara, and the Ovampo (a journey of about 1700 miles), as to enable this Society to publish a valuable memoir and map in the last volume of the Journal relating to a country hitherto unknown; the Astronomical Observations, determining the latitude and longitude of places, having been most accurately made by himself.

The Patron's Medal to Commander Edward Augustus Inglefield, of the Royal Navy, for his very remarkable and enterprising Survey of the Coasts of Baffin Bay, Smith Sound, and Lancaster Sound, in the last summer, during which he threw much new light on the geography of the Arctic Regions, and, with the very limited means at his disposal, accomplished most important results.

The Council would gladly close their Report without touching

upon an ungrateful theme,—the want of suitable Apartments for needful display of the Society's Maps and Charts, and for discussion of the various papers submitted to the Sessional Meetings.

This want is the more felt in proportion to the increased public attention recently accorded to the Society. Maps and Charts of the highest interest to every one engaged in foreign and colonial trade or policy are hidden for lack of space; and crowded Meetings are held, by sufferance, at the rooms of another institution, where the advantage of immediate reference to the Society's valuable collections and digests is altogether lost.

The Society is engaged in a department of science universally admitted to be of the first importance to mankind, and preeminently so to this great empire,—its labours are gratuitous, while the fruits of them are wholly national. Is it too much then to ask for such public aid, in the shape of suitable apartments or the means to procure them, as may remove the hindrances that at present so greatly impede its career of usefulness? The Council consider the Society has a just claim to public support in return for public services; and they have not failed to urge such claim upon successive Governments, which claim has been virtually admitted, but remains as yet without practical results.

Balance-Sheet for the Year 1852.

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BALANCE-SHEET FOR THE YEAR 1852.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Subscriptions of 234 Fellows	.	.	468 0 0	Journal—Printing Vol. XXI.	.	.	169 11 6
Entrance of 60 Fellows	.	.	180 0 0	" " Catalogue	.	.	91 14 10
Composition of 6 Fellows	.	.	148 0 0	" " For preparing Catalogue	.	.	50 0 0
Arrears of Subscriptions paid up	.	.	86 0 0	" " Illustrations	.	.	8 18 9
Journals and Indices sold	.	.	122 15 8	Salaries—A-Secretary and Editor	.	.	200 0 0
Dividends on 2000 <i>l.</i> of 3½ per Cent.	.	.	63 2 2	" Clerk	.	.	50 0 0
" " on 224 <i>l.</i> 1 <i>s.</i> 10 <i>d.</i> of 3 per Cent.	.	.	6 10 6	" Collector	.	.	9 5 0
Royal Premium	.	.	52 10 0	" Messenger and Housemaid	.	.	40 0 0
Mr. Greenough's Donation to Catalogue	.	.	50 0 0	Wages—Messenger and Housemaid	.	.	299 5 0
Amounts paid into Banker's towards Arctic Expedition	.	.	38 5 0	House Rent and Fixtures, 3 quarters*	.	.	197 14 9
Sundries overpaid	.	.	3 0 0	Office Expenses—	.	.	
Captain Dundas's Donation to Library	.	.	2 0 0	Postages (including Stamps, Freight, Duty, Carriage of Parcels, &c.)	.	.	28 2 8
				Firing and Lights	.	.	16 12 10
				Stationery	.	.	11 8 5
				Evening Meetings	.	.	6 7 3
				Royal Premium (Medals)	.	.	62 11 2
				Furniture and Repairs	.	.	47 9 0
				Insurance and Advertisements	.	.	18 16 9
				Sundry Petty Charges	.	.	16 4 0
				Books and Binding	.	.	11 18 7
				British Association Meeting	.	.	11 8 9
					.	.	10 0 0
Total Income for the year 1852	:	:	1,220 3 4	Total Expenditure for the year 1852	:	:	995 13 1
Balance at Banker's, January 1, 1852	:	:	: £287 16 0	Balance at Banker's, Dec. 31, 1852	:	:	522 6 3
" " in the Secretary's hands	:	:	: 32 15 2	" " in the Secretary's hands	:	:	22 15 2
			320 11 2				545 1 5
			£1,540 14 6				£1,540 14 6

* The Christmas quarter's rent was paid in Dec. 1852, but was not drawn from Banker's until Jan. 1853.

ROBERT BIDDULPH, *Treasurer.*

Examined and found correct.

E. OSBORNE SMITH,
THOS. LEE. } *Auditors.*

* The Christmas quarter's rent was paid in Dec. 1852, but was not drawn from Banker's until Jan. 1853.

ESTIMATE FOR THE YEAR 1853.

<i>Receipts.</i>				<i>Expenditure.</i>		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Banker's and Petty Cash Balances	.	545	1 5			
Less, Cheques issued for 1852	£93	17	0		350	0 0
„ Subscription for Arctic Expedition	.	38	5 0		50	0 0
			132 2 0			400 0 0
Annual Subscriptions of 275 Members at 2 <i>l.</i> each	.	.	412 19 5		.	300 0 0
Compositions of 6 Members at 25 <i>l.</i> each	.	.	550 0 0		.	350 0 0
Entrance Fees of 50 Members at 3 <i>l.</i> each	.	.	150 0 0		.	100 0 0
Arrears, estimated to be paid	.	.	150 0 0		.	100 0 0
Sale of Journals and Indices	.	.	50 0 0		.	52 10 0
Dividends on 2000 <i>l.</i> 3½ per cent. Stock	.	.	100 0 0		.	50 0 0
Royal Premium	.	.	63 2 2		.	50 0 0
			52 10 0		.	30 0 0
					.	96 1 7
			£1,528 11 7			£1,528 11 7

NORTON SHAW.